



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Summer Term 2024

St George's Safeguarding Team

Our Safeguarding Team is available to any student, parent or school staff member to discuss and report any safeguarding concerns.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Jill Farndale
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Kelly McCall
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Hayley Shears



Supporting your child with Transition?

Just like adults, children cope with changes and transitions in different ways. Some people breeze through with excitement and others feel anxious and need more support. At St George's we are very mindful of these differing needs so we plan our transitions to high schools and new classes carefully and with a great deal of thought.

However, you as parents/carers play a vital role in making sure this is a positive experience for your children. Here are some tips for supporting us with this:

1. Be positive! – How you react to change will strongly influence your child and if you feel anxious, so will they. Talk about the positive elements of change – new experiences, new opportunities, new topics and meeting new people.
2. Focus on the constants for your child, the things that will be the same.
3. Listen to any concerns that are forthcoming but don't go looking for them – remember that most children will be excited about the move and are more than ready for it.
5. If your child is moving from KS1 to KS2, talk about what this will look like at drop-off and pick-up times – you could even do some practice runs using the different gates.
6. Keep in touch with friends during the holidays so that those connections stay strong.





Spotlight on: Car Seat Awareness

This article outlines the UK law on use of car seats and child safety in cars as a reminder for all parents / guardians. At St George's, we are pleased to see many children walking, cycling and scooting to school once the weather improves and mornings and evenings are lighter. Nevertheless, the summer months also deliver many travel opportunities for families, so we wanted to take the time to outline these key reminders.

Did you know?

"Seat belts did not become a legal requirement for rear passengers until 1987. Even more remarkably the use of children's car seats wasn't made a legal requirement until 2006! Since then, all infants from birth until a certain age or height must be in a specially designed car seat. This is a legal requirement and failure to do so will likely result in you receiving a £500 fine but, of course, the threat of a cash fine pales into insignificance when compared to the realities and outcomes of an accident."

Main points of the law:

1) Height based seats are required to used REAR FACING for a minimum of 15 months.

2) A suitable* child car seat must be used until the child reaches a height of 135cms or 12 years old, whichever is reached first.

(*suitable = a seat that is intended for the child's height, weight and the vehicle it is to be used in.)

The purpose of the regulations and the law is to improve levels of safety for children in vehicles. It is our responsibility to ensure our children are protected to the best of our ability.

What are the legal requirements for rear-facing car seats?

New laws dictate that children must travel in rear-facing car seats until they are 15 months old. Furthermore, you must never fit a rear-facing car seat in the front of your car where there is an active passenger airbag.

What are the legal requirements for forward-facing car seats?

From 15 months old onwards, it is believed that your child's neck will be strong enough to more reasonably handle the impact of an accident and, therefore, forward-facing car seats may be used. However, it is recommended that rear-facing seats are used for as long as possible.

When can a child legally travel without a car seat?

In the UK, children must be restrained in a car seat until they are 12 years old or at least 135cm tall. From that point onwards, they must use a seat belt like all adults. There are a few exceptions to this:

- A child can travel in a taxi or mini-cab without a car seat if the driver doesn't provide one however, they must wear a seat belt.
- The same rule applies for coaches and minibuses –children must travel in rear seats and use seat belts.
- If you have to make a short, unexpected journey as an emergency, it is legally acceptable to restrain your child with just a seatbelt instead of a car seat providing your child is 3 years or older.
- Children with special or additional needs or medical conditions will have bespoke requirements outside of normal laws. Usually, they are required to be restrained by means designed for their needs.

While these exceptions exist, it is advisable not to take any unnecessary risks. Accidents happen in buses and taxis too.



Summer water safety

Summer is an amazing time to enjoy Britain's waterways but we should be mindful that according to the Royal Life Saving Society's National Drowning Report 2023, warmer weather is directly linked to an increase in fatal drowning incidents.

Every year we hear of children who get into difficulties in our rivers, lakes and seas, often with tragic consequences.

- 46% of drownings occur in the summer months and this rises to 75% amongst 13-17yr olds
- Rivers and lakes/lochs pose the greatest risk as there are often unseen hazards and conditions that the average person is not equipped to handle and there is a lack of professional supervision such as a lifeguard

Dangers of playing in or near open water:

- ✓ Unknown depth - some rivers and canals may only be 1 to 2 metres deep. If you jump in from a height, you may hit the bottom much sooner than you think and cause yourself an injury
- ✓ Currents – currents are not always visible. These can pull you under the water and can be hard to swim out of
- ✓ Invisible submerged objects – items like trolleys, bricks and sharp objects can be found on riverbeds and in open water. If this isn't visible you may hurt yourself. Equally, the reeds and plants in open water can be hazardous if they get tangled around legs or arms preventing you from being able to swim.
- ✓ Uneven and / or slippery banks - it's easy to lose your footing and then it can be hard to get yourself back on the bank
- ✓ Cold temperature of the water – in summer, even though the temperature outside is hot, the temperature of water in rivers, the ocean, lakes etc. is still colder than you think.

For more information and advice about keeping your children safe around water, including what the different coloured flags on our beaches mean, go to the RLSS UK website <https://www.rlss.org.uk/pages/category/summer-water-safety> where you will find lots of parent resources.

